Amendment to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A ~~combustion promoter~~ composition suitable for use in a fluidized catalytic cracking (FCC) process, said composition comprising a component which contains (i) an acidic oxide support containing at least 50 weight percent of alumina, (ii) about 1-10 parts by weight, measured as the metal oxide, of ~~an~~ at least one alkaline earth metal ~~or mixtures thereof~~, (iii) at least 1 part by weight of a transition metal oxide having oxygen storage capability, and (iv) at least 0.01 parts by weight palladium, all of said parts by weight being per 100 parts by weight of said acidic oxide support, wherein said composition promotes CO combustion while simultaneously reducing NO_x emissions in an FCC process.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 1 wherein said acidic oxide support is selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica alumina, and lanthana alumina.

4. (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 3 wherein said acidic oxide support is a silica alumina.

5. (Original): The composition of claim 4 wherein said silica alumina has an alumina:silica mole ratio of about 3-50:1.

6. (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 1 wherein said oxygen storage transition metal oxide contains ceria.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 1 wherein said component contains about 2 to 50 parts by weight of said oxygen storage oxide per 100 parts by weight of said acidic oxide support material.

11. (Original): The composition of claim 1 wherein said component contains about 0.01-5 parts by weight of palladium per 100 parts by weight of said acidic oxide support material.

12. (Original): The composition of claim 1 wherein said component consists essentially of constituents (i) – (iv).

13. (Original): The composition of claim 12 wherein said composition consists essentially of said component and said composition is in the form of particles.

14. (Currently Amended): A fluid cracking catalyst comprising (a) a cracking component suitable for use in cracking hydrocarbons, and (b) a component which promotes CO combustion while simultaneously reducing NO_x emissions in an FCC process and comprises~~contains~~ (i) an acidic oxide support containing at least 50 weight percent of alumina, (ii) about 1-10 parts by weight, measured as the metal oxide, of at least one ~~an~~ alkaline earth metal ~~or mixtures thereof~~, (iii) at least 1 part by weight of a transition metal oxide having oxygen storage capability, and (iv) at least 0.01 parts by weight palladium, all of said parts by weight being per 100 parts by weight of said acidic oxide support.

15. (Original): The cracking catalyst of claim 14 wherein said cracking catalyst comprises an admixture of component (a) in particulate form and component (b) in particulate form.

16. (Original): The cracking catalyst of claim 14 wherein said cracking catalyst is a particulate composition comprising integral particles which contain both components (a) and (b).

17. (Currently amended): A method of cracking a hydrocarbon feedstock into lower molecular weight components, said method comprising contacting said hydrocarbons with a cracking catalyst comprising (a) a cracking component suitable for use in cracking hydrocarbons, and (b) a component which promotes CO combustion while simultaneously reducing NO_x emissions in an FCC process and comprises ~~contains~~ (i) an acidic oxide support containing at least 50 weight percent of alumina, (ii) about 1-10 parts by weight measured as the metal oxide, of at least one ~~an~~ alkaline earth metal ~~or mixtures thereof~~, (iii) at least 1 part by weight of a transition metal oxide having oxygen storage capability, and (iv) at least 0.01 parts by weight palladium, all of said parts by weight being per 100 parts by weight of said acidic oxide support, at elevated temperature whereby said lower molecular weight components are formed.

18. (Original): The method of claim 17 wherein said catalyst is fluidized during said contacting and said method further comprises recovering used cracking catalyst from said contacting step and treating said used catalyst under conditions suitable to regenerate said catalyst.